

Hampton Privy  
535 Hampton Lane  
East of Hampton Mansion  
Hampton National Historic Site  
Towson  
Baltimore County  
Maryland

HABS No. MD-226-Q

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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D. C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. MD-226-Q

HAMPTON PRIVY

Location: 535 Hampton Lane, east of Hampton Mansion,  
Hampton National Historic Site, Towson,  
Baltimore County, Maryland

Present Owner: U. S. Department of the Interior, National  
Park Service

Present Use: Vacant

Statement of  
Significance: This small structure, together with the two  
adjacent utility buildings, typifies the  
architectural sophistication of the early  
Hampton outbuildings.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: The tract of land on which the Privy was built was acquired in 1745 by Colonel Charles Ridgely from Clement and Ann Hill. The 1500 acre tract, "Northampton," had been inherited by Ann Hill from her father, Henry Darnall, who had patented it in 1695. Captain Charles Ridgely, Colonel Ridgely's son, inherited the property in 1772 after his father's death. Captain Ridgely, for whom Hampton Mansion was built, died in 1790. In accordance with his will, nephew Charles Carnan assumed title to much of the estate and the Ridgely name. On January 17, 1791, widow Rebecca Ridgely signed an agreement with Charles Carnan Ridgely to exchange a tract of land and a house for her rights, claims and interest to Hampton. The estate was inherited by Charles Carnan Ridgely's second son, John, in 1829, as his first son, Charles, had died in 1819. After John's death in 1867, the estate was inherited by his son, Charles, who bequeathed it to his son, John, in 1872. The estate was left to John Ridgely, Jr. in 1938, who sold the mansion to the Avalon Foundation in 1946. The foundation subsequently transferred it to the National Park Service in 1948 under the condition that the Society for the Preservation of Maryland Antiquities would maintain the estate after it was restored by the Park Service.

2. Date of erection: Circa 1800
  3. Architect: Unknown
  4. Construction information: None known
  5. Alterations and additions: Prior to the restoration of the exterior and the removal of the interior, the exterior siding had been replaced.
  6. Important old views: The Privy, though not named, is located on the 1843 plat of the estate. Prerestoration photographs are in the report cited in Section C.
- B. Historic Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:  
See the historical data for Hampton Mansion (HABS No. MD-226-A).
- C. Sources of Information:
1. Primary and unpublished sources: The Ridgely family papers are indexed by Avril J. M. Pedley in The Manuscript Collections of the Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore, 1968. Contained are eight collection numbers which list eighty-seven volumes and approximately thirty-five boxes of loose material.
- Within the National Park Service, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, Division of History files is Norman M. Souder's "Historic Structures Report, Part I, Architectural Data Section, Restoration of Three Outbuildings, Hampton National Historic Site," 1966. The report contains measured drawings and photographs.
2. Secondary and published sources: None known

## PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

- A. General Statement:
1. Architectural character: This small, one-story structure, with a pyramidal roof, has a central west doorway and a window on each north and south elevation. It was a four-hole privy.
  2. Condition of fabric: Restored in 1968, the structure is in excellent condition.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The Privy has a 10'-3" facade and is 8'-3" in depth.
2. Foundations: The rubble limestone foundation, which had deteriorated, was restored in 1968.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: The frame walls have random width beaded clapboarding, within cornerboards, applied with wrought iron nails. Narrow siding replaced the lower half of the original clapboarding prior to the restoration. The structure is presently painted a pale buff-pink.
4. Structural system: The Privy is a post and beam structure with mortise and tenon and pegged joints.
5. Porches: None
6. Chimneys: None
7. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: The door frame is of solid stock construction and has a beaded inner edge at the opening and an applied ovolo backband which receives the clapboarding. A fully raised, six-panel door is hung in the opening. An east clean-out door, constructed from a section of clapboarding the length of the fixed clapboarding and at the bottom of the wall, lifts up on reproduction strap hinges.
  - b. Windows and shutters: Solid stock window frames, with trim similar to the doorway are hung with six-over-six light sash and have plain sills. Each window was restored with a single, two-panel, fixed slat lowered blind. The single blind was determined by pintle hinge ghost marks.
8. Roof:
  - a. Shape and covering: The pyramidal roof of the Privy was restored with wood shingles which swirl over the hip ridges and match the original shingling of the adjacent two structures.

- b. Cornice and eaves: The eaves around the structure are boxed and have a cyma recta crown moulding and an ovolo bed moulding.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plan: The structure has a single space.
2. Stairways: None
3. Flooring: The floor is 5" to 8" random width pine.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Originally, the walls and ceiling were plastered on hand split lath. The corner posts were trimmed with beaded edges and projected three inches beyond the face of the plaster. During the restoration the interior was stripped.
5. Doorways and doors: None
6. Special decorative features: The door and window openings were trimmed with an ovolo backband. A 6" baseboard with a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " bead extended around the walls.

The seating arrangement, which was not replaced after its removal in 1968, extended across the east end of the space. The children's section which extended 3'-10" from the south wall had an 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ " riser. The adjoining adult section with a 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ " riser occupied the remainder of the space. Each section had two holes and each was equipped with a hinged lid. Back and side boards extended above the seats and were edged with a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " bead. The boards, which were continuous, extended 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ " above the lower seats and 10 $\frac{1}{4}$ " above the higher seats. The woodwork, except for the seats and risers, were painted iron oxide red which faded to a dull red-brown shade.

7. Hardware: "H" hinges survived at the doorway.
8. Mechanical equipment: None

- D. Site and Surroundings: The Privy is the south structure of a group of three outbuildings east of Hampton Mansion, across from the brick paved kitchen courtyard. The three structures, which face the east elevation of the mansion, outline a formal composition with two lower structures, flanking a taller, central structure.

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was initially financed with funds from the "Mission 66" Program of the National Park Service under the direction of Charles E. Peterson, Supervising Architect, Historic Structures. Hampton Mansion was measured in 1958 by Student Assistant Architects Orville W. Carroll (University of Oregon), Harold A. Nelson (University of Michigan), and Trevor Nelson (M.I.T.), with Professor Lee H. Nelson (University of Illinois) as Project Supervisor. The complex was measured and drawn in 1959 by Student Assistant Architects Charles C. Boldrick (University of Notre Dame), Richard C. Mehring (University of Virginia) and Herbert L. Banks (University of Florida), with Professor F. Blair Reeves (University of Florida) as Project Supervisor.

The Project was edited in 1972-73 by Rodd L. Wheaton, Architect, Historic American Buildings Survey, who prepared the historical data, edited and expanded the 1959 architectural data and recorded several structures which were previously unrecorded.